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Members begin to put questions to each other; we must observe some order. I am sorry this kind of thing is going on. That question was mainly intended for the Chair and for the Hon. Minister. Either the Minister or the Chair should answer that. What is it that Mr. Nayudu asked, may I know?"

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—"When the Hon. Minister told us that it was not in the public interest to disclose the matter, why should the matter be still pursued?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I think Mr. Bhima Rao can ask the Minister for the reasons or how it is not in the public interest to give out the information. I do not think there is anything wrong in that. Mr. Bhima Rao may now put any more questions if he wants."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"I have already put them, Sir, I have nothing more to ask."

The report of the Fruit Specialist.

* 126 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is some years since the Fruit Specialist submitted his report on the possibilities of fruit cultivation in Rayalaseema;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what active steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to give effect to the Specialist's recommendations;

(*c*) whether recently a Soil Survey Officer was appointed to carry out soil survey;

(*d*) what the recommendations of the Soil Survey Officer are; and

(*e*) whether the Government have passed orders on the report of the Soil Survey Officer, and if so, what these orders are?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"(*a*) The report of the Fruit Specialist was made in 1943.

"(*b*) & (*c*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to his question on 31st January 1947. The Government examined the report of the Fruit Specialist in consultation with the Director of Agriculture, Board of Revenue, etc., and as a first step they appointed in May 1946 a Soil Survey Officer in the Agricultural Department for investigating the following five areas in Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah districts for suitability for fruit cultivation with reference to sub-soil strata.

Bellary district.—(1) Red-soil stretches on the Ujjini-Kottur road in Kudligi taluk.

Kurnool district.—(2) Rudravaram Firka in Sirvel taluk. (3) stretch of land along the Kurnool-Giddalore road between Diguvametta and Giddalore town.

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Cuddapah district.—(4) Parts of Kodur Firka in Rajampet taluk, and (5) parts of Vontimetta Valley in Sidhout taluk.

(*d*) & (*e*) The report of the Soil Survey Officer was submitted to Government in January 1948. The recommendations of the Soil Survey Officer for each area surveyed and the action taken by the Government on the recommendations are given below :—

(1) *Kottur-Ujjini area—Bellary district*.—The soils over the great portion of this area are comparatively shallow, the water-table very low and the water brackish. In view of these conditions this area is not considered suitable for extending fruit cultivation.

(2) *Rudravaram-Sirvel area—Kurnool district*.—In Rudravaram area sufficiently deep soils for profitable fruit growing are met with. The greatest drawback to the development of the area is, however, the lack of adequate transport facilities. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to ascertain and report specifically which of the roads and bridges require improvement and what roads and bridges have to be newly constructed for the development of fruit cultivation in this area. His report is awaited.

(3) *Diguvametta-Giddalore area—Kurnool district*.—Except near Diguvametta where the soils are shallow, the soil conditions over the remaining portion of the area are favourable for fruit cultivation. The greatest drawback to the development of this area is lack of irrigation facilities, the water-table being very low. The development of this area is intimately bound up with the availability of adequate and good sub-soil water and for deciding this question trial borings will be necessary. The Government have called for detailed proposals for conducting trial borings in this area to ascertain the availability of sub-soil water for fruit cultivation. The proposals are awaited.

Kodur firka—Cuddapah district.—The conditions available in this area are very favourable for extension of the area under fruit cultivation. The Director of Agriculture has been asked to submit detailed proposals for extending fruit cultivation in this area on the lines of the recommendations made by the Fruit Specialist in his report. The Director of Agriculture's report is awaited.

Vontimetta—Cuddapah district.—There is considerable erosion in this area and stretches of good soil are nowhere extensive. Except for small areas in certain villages there are very little prospects of any large-scale extension of the area under fruits. The salient features of the report on the soil survey are proposed to be published shortly as a Press Note and also as a bulletin of the Agricultural Department. Instructions have also been issued to publish the statistical portion of the report in a suitable scientific journal of the

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Indian Council of Agricultural Research or in the departmental journals. It may also be stated that originally the Fruit Specialist in his report suggested 22 sites for the development of fruit cultivation in the Ceded districts. The question of conducting a survey of the remaining 17 sites to ascertain their suitability for development of fruit cultivation is also engaging the attention of Government and proposals in this regard are awaited from the Director of Agriculture."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Are any steps being taken for the development of fruit culture in other parts of the Province, particularly Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Yes, Sir; the Government propose to have a fruit farm, if possible, in each district. Schemes are almost ready for attaching a fruit section to the existing agricultural farms which are now 47 in number, and almost every district will have a fruit farm."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" When do the Government expect to implement that scheme? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" We expect to implement it before the end of this year."

Sri M. NARAYANA MENON :—" If the report of the Soil Survey Officer has been submitted may I know whether it has been published? "

The Hon. Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—"I think it is being published."

Import and purchase of ammonium sulphate.

* 127 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 11-30 a.m.

(a) the amount of ammonium sulphate imported and purchased locally for distributing the manure to the ryots in 1947-48;

(b) what the estimated requirements of 1948-49 are and how they propose to meet them;

(c) what the quantity allotted is out of the quota available to mixed fertilizers firms;

(d) whether the mixed manure is allowed to be sold freely in the market and who the beneficiaries are;

(e) the firm or firms recognized as mixed fertilizer firms and the proportionate quantity of ammonium sulphate allotted to them to prepare mixtures; and

(f) whether fresh applications for allotment for the preparation of mixtures are considered favourably, and if so, whether they are treated on an equal footing and the available ammonium sulphate is distributed to them equitably?